REMARKS

This is in response to the Decision on Appeal mailed 9/02/2010. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of this response/amendment.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. (U.S. Patent 6,941,521) in view of Liu et al. (U.S. Pub. Appl. 2004/0168119).

Claims 21-33 were previously cancelled.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. (U.S. Patent 6,941,521) in view of Liu et al. (U.S. Pub. Appl. 2004/0168119). To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the cited references have to provide for each and every element of the rejected claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Lin and Liu fails to teach or suggest many of the features of the rejected claims.

On page 6 of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference's (BPAI's) decision, it is specifically pointed out that the examples of grouping shown in FIG. 3a-3c, while distinguishable from Lin, are not present in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants have clarified independent claims 1 and 11 to include further details, without adding any new matter, about the grouping and regions. Applicants wish to note that such amendments have been made for clarification purposes only and to advance prosecution.

Independent claim 1, as clarified via the current amendment, provides for a system to order a plurality of nodes associated with entities in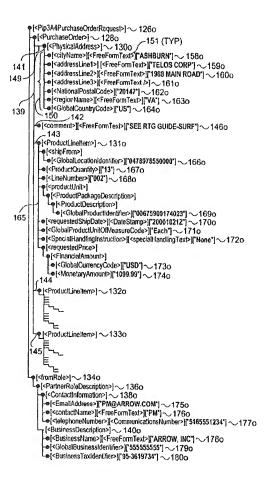 a document, wherein the system comprises: (a) a node generator parsing said entities in said document and creating a plurality of nodes that represent said entities and relationships that exists among said entities; (b) <u>a node grouper grouping said created plurality of nodes into a plurality of regions *based upon anticipated access pattern and usage*, each of said regions defining an area within a n-dimensional space formed by *steps and levels*, wherein n is greater than one and *each region defined by a minimum step, a minimum level, a maximum step, a maximum level, and a step range, said step range assigned a value of 0 if minimum step is less than or equal to the maximum step and is assigned a value of the minimum step if the minimum step is greater than the maximum step*</u>; and (c) a formatter for formatting said plurality of regions for storage.

Similarly, independent claim 11, as clarified via the current amendment, provides for a method for ordering a plurality of nodes associated with entities in a document, said method comprising: (a) parsing said entities in said document and creating a plurality of nodes that represent said entities and relationships that exists among said entities; (b) <u>grouping said created plurality of nodes into a plurality of regions, *each of said regions based upon anticipated access pattern and usage*, each of said regions defining an area within a n-dimensional space formed by *steps and levels*, wherein n is greater than one, and *each region defined by a minimum step, a minimum level, a maximum step, a maximum level, and a step range, said step range assigned a value of 0 if minimum step is less than or equal to the maximum step and is assigned a value*</u>

<u>*of the minimum step if the minimum step is greater than the maximum step*</u>; and (c) formatting said plurality of regions for storage.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Lin's Figure 4 and column 5, lines 19-40 fail to teach such a node grouper as per claim 1, or the grouping of nodes according to claim 11. Lin's Figure 4 merely illustrates a flow chart for creating an "intermediate data structure" and makes no mention of grouping nodes into regions based upon anticipated access, wherein the regions define an area formed by steps and levels.

Similarly, Lin's Figure 2B, shown below, merely shows a group object comprising a parent node having one or more child nodes.

In Lin's Fig. 2B, the group object called "PurchaseOrder" is connected to: the PhysicalAddress node **130o** via branch **141**, the comment node **146o** via branch142, the ProductLineItem node **131o** via **143**, the Product Line Item node **132o** via branch **144**, and the Product Line Item node **133o** via branch **145**. DOM's group objects, therefore, merely refer to a parent node with any children. Summarily absent in such a structure is the grouping of nodes into regions based upon anticipated access, wherein the regions define an area formed by steps and levels.

Also absent in FIG. 2B of Lin is each region defined by a minimum step, a minimum level, a maximum step, a maximum level, and a step range, wherein the step range is assigned a value of 0 if minimum step is less than or equal to the maximum step and is assigned a value of the minimum step if the minimum step is greater than the maximum step.

Absent such features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Lin and Liu CANNOT teach or suggest the features of Applicants' claims 1 and 11. The above-mentioned arguments substantially apply to dependent claims 2-3, 5-10, 12-13, and 15-20, as they at least inherit the features of the claim from which they depend (i.e., independent claims 1 or 11). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Lin and Liu CANNOT teach or suggest the features of dependent claims 2-3, 5-10, 12-13, and 15-20.

If the Examiner still feels that Lin and Liu teach specific recitations of Applicants' pending claims, Applicants wish to emphasize that it is the duty of the Examiner to specifically point out limitations with respect to each and every claim element such that Applicants are aware

of how the Examiner is applying a reference in a rejection. Specifically, §1.104(c)(2) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations and section 707 of the M.P.E.P. explicitly states that "the particular part relied on must be designated" and "the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified".

SUMMARY

As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of Applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

This response is timely filed, no fees for an extension of time are required. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the as any deficiencies in the fees provided, as well as credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact Applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

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